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ANZAC DAY



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MWDs – All bark
AND all bite

Page 38

Photo by
Corporal DJ Wu

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As you may know by now, I was recently invited to join **Military Photography** Facebook page as an admin - for which opportunity I thank the owners very much.

I'm very proud to be involved in this Australia-based page and even more proud that **Military Photography** is already the biggest page of its kind in the World – which is all the more surprising for the fact that it was only created in January last year.

Being involved with **Military Photography** Facebook page means a great deal to **COMBAT Camera** and to **CONTACT Air Land & Sea** too. We have already added more than 1200 new subscribers to our database through this association.

Of course, while **Military Photography** is very important from a subscriber-recruitment point of view, we would be silly to rely solely on it.

You are reading this editorial and enjoying this magazine because you have already signed on for FREE through our quick and painless subscription system. And you *are* enjoying it – right?

But, how many friends do you have (real and Facebook) who aren't subscribers yet? Have you told them about us? If not, why don't you do it right now? Please!

Simply send them to www.combatcamera.com.au to sign up for their own subscription.

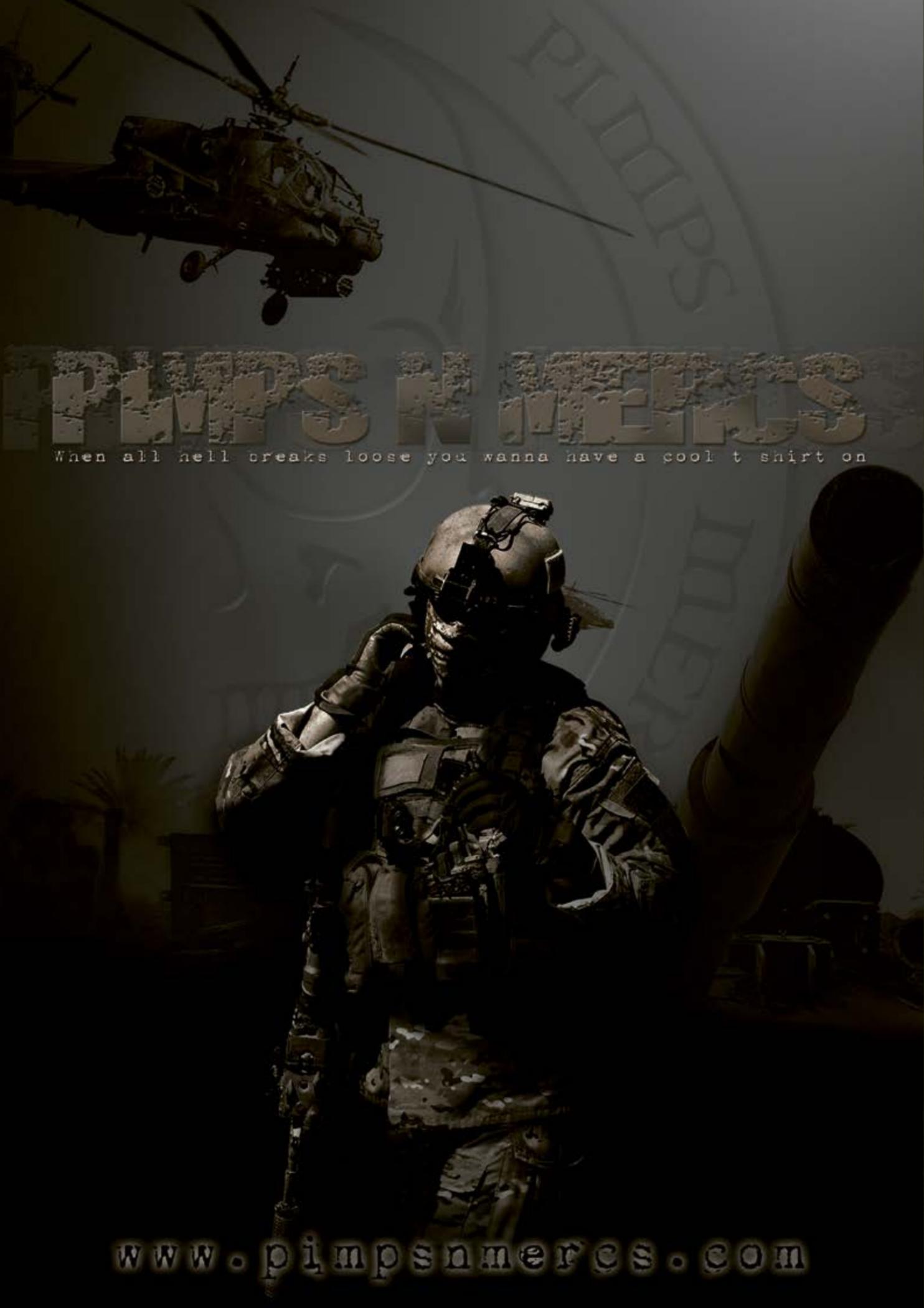
On the other hand, if you can think of any clever, more productive ways of sending more subscribers our way, we would *REALLY* like to hear about them. In fact, we might even be able to reward you (even more than by giving you Australia's two best boots-on-the-ground military magazines for free!).

That's right – **the three best ideas for subscription recruitment sent to us by 25 May will win a very nice prize.** See page 33 for details.

Sincerely,

Brian Hartigan
Managing Editor

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Fins buy Dutch Leopards

Finland is set to buy 100 Leopard 2A6 main battle tanks from the Netherlands, with training aids, spare parts, special tools, practice ammunition and training courses included in the sale.

Holland will hand the tanks over to Finland in five batches of 20 up to 2019.

The Royal Netherlands Army retired the Leopard 2A6 in September

2012 after the government enforced major defence cutback.

On 18 May 2011, the last shot was fired by a Dutch Leopard tank at the Bergen-Hohne military firing range in Germany, after which, two tank battalions

were deactivated and disbanded and their tanks put into storage.



Dutch Leopard firing on exercise in Germany

The value of the recently agreed sale to Finland was not divulged by officials,

but the funds are set to roll back in to Holland's defence budget.



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Our wounded have done their part for Australia, they have given their best. Thousands have wounds, some you can see and some you can't. It is now Australia's turn to look after them, please give generously and make a difference in our wounded warriors lives.

Paddy's Day royal visit

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge attended this year's Irish Guards St Patrick's Day Parade in Aldershot on 17 March.

A company of reserve soldiers from the London Regiment joined the parade this year after being paired with the Irish Guards under the Army 2020 restructuring process.

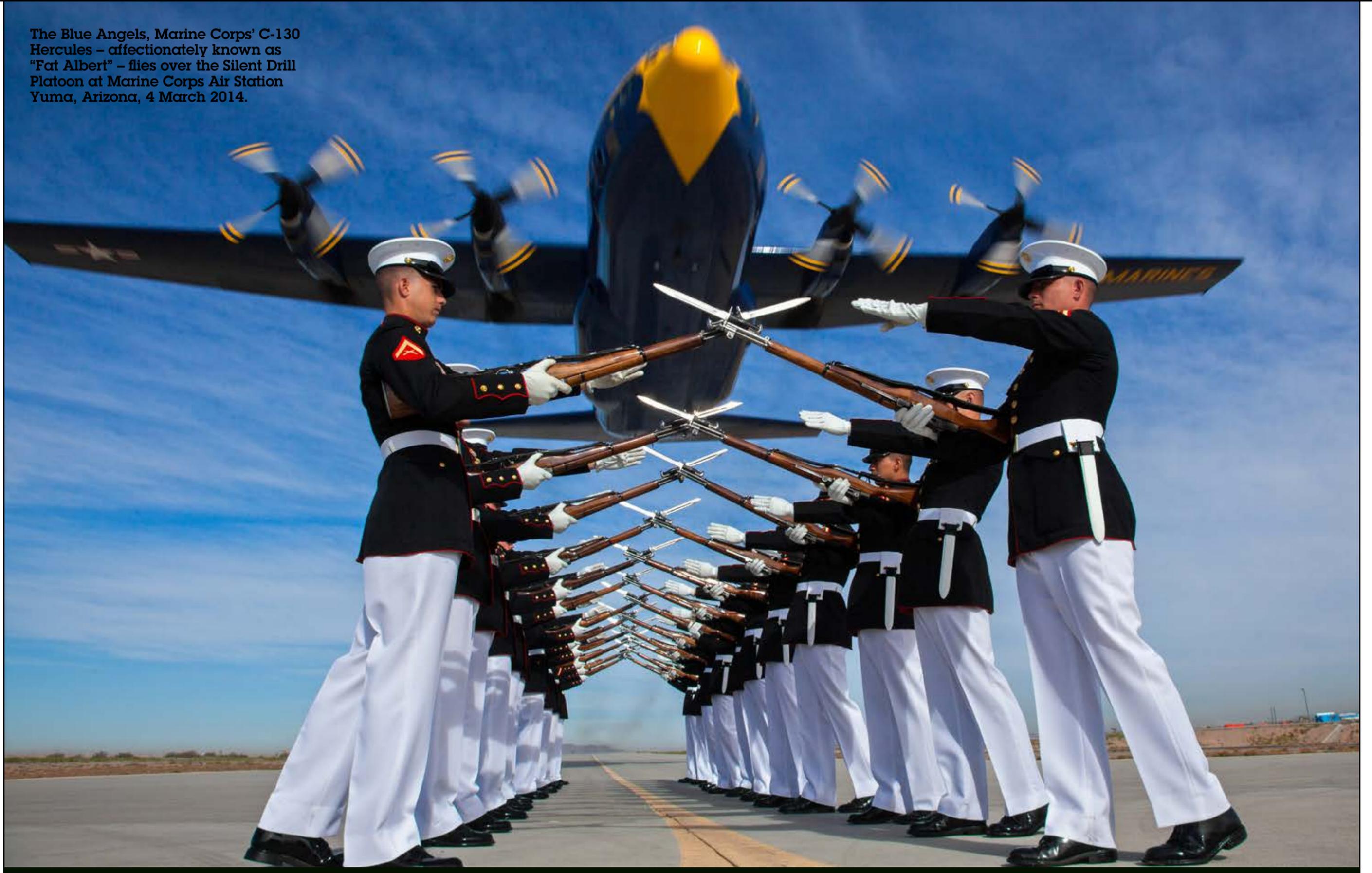
HRH The Duke of Cambridge attended as Colonel of the Regiment. The Duchess presented the traditional sprigs of shamrock to the officers and guardsmen, as well as to Domhnall, the Irish Guards Irish wolfhound mascot.

This now-annual tradition was inaugurated by Queen Alexandra, wife of then King Edward VII, in 1901.



By Corporal Richard Cave

The Blue Angels, Marine Corps' C-130 Hercules – affectionately known as "Fat Albert" – flies over the Silent Drill Platoon at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, 4 March 2014.



ARR2

WORLD'S OLDEST ARMOURED SERVING VEHICLE



Sliabh na mBan, or 'Slievenamon' in anglicised form, is one of 13 1920-pattern armoured Rolls Royce cars bought by the Irish Free State after the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 1921.

It is a slightly modified version of the 1914-pattern ARR originally produced for the British Admiralty during WWI.

The first 1920-pattern ARR's were destined for service with British armoured-car companies in Mesopotamia, but, a worsening situation in Ireland saw them diverted to the 5th Armoured Car Company, Royal Tank Corps.

What has assured this car's special place in history is that she formed part of General Michael Collins' faithful convoy on 22 August 1922 – and an ambush that took the life of the Commander in Chief of the National Army.

All the ARR's were retired in 1947 with all-but Sliabh na mBan sold in 1954.

She received a complete restoration and overhaul in 2011 and serves today as a centrepiece ceremonial vehicle with the Irish Army.

Based on	Silver Ghost
Engine	7434cc 6-cylinder RR
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A British F-35 Lightning II at Fort Worth, Texas, piloted by RAF Squadron Leader Jim Schofield.
Photo by Tom Harvey, Lockheed Martin

JSF AT UK AIRSHOWS

Up to three Joint Strike Fighter F-35 Lightning II aircraft will visit the UK for the first time this [northern] summer, with one flying and two on static display at two major airshows.

The F-35 Lightning II will make its international debut in July at the Royal International

Air Tattoo in Fairford and will also fly at the Farnborough International Air Show.

Britain is expected to acquire 138 short take off/vertical landing F-35B variants for the RAF and the Royal Navy, with pilot and maintainer training in the USA well advanced.

Approximately 15 per cent of every JSF is built in the Britain, so the selection of the UK for the aircraft's international debut may not be surprising.

We can only hope this first appearance outside the USA bodes well for a possible date in Avalon next year!

Destroyer Christened

The US Navy's largest ever destroyer was christened in Bath, Main, on 12 April, with two daughters of the man it's named after – Admiral Bud Zumwalt – smashing champagne bottles on its bow. USS Zumwalt is a 15,000-tonne, 185m 'stealth' ship that will be commanded by Captain James Kirk – which one VIP at the christening ceremony said was apt for such an advanced ship.



USS Zumwalt can carry two MH-60R attack helicopters and will be fitted with an electric railgun.

US Navy photo courtesy of General Dynamics

GAME CHANGER

After rigorous testing, the new Australian Light Armoured Vehicle surveillance variant, ALSAV-S, has been shown to significantly improve Army's Cavalry operations.

Tested in Shoalwater Bay Training Area during Exercise Kosta River in late March, the new vehicles impressed their new owners.

Commanding Officer 2/14 Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Lieutenant Colonel Ash Collingburn said the vehicles were another tool in his intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance toolbox.

"The new vehicles are a game changer – the new capability they provide changes the way we think about Cavalry operations," he said.

"We're learning as we go, but we have some very smart junior non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the surveillance troop and they are quickly learning the limitations and realising the full potential of the capability."

Equipped with a multispectral surveillance suite including ground-surveillance radar, thermal camera and day camera, the vehicles are capable of laser-designating targets and can penetrate the tree canopy thanks to their extendable masts.



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SPEED DEMOS

PHOTOS BY LEADING AIRCRAFTMAN
OLIVER CARTER – VIDEO BY SERGEANT
ROB HACK



Australia's new F1 hero Daniel Ricciardo pitted himself and his ride against an RAAF F/A-18 at RAAF Base East Sale in March – and came off second best.

Quick off the line, the Red Bull Racing 2014-spec RB10 demonstration car was quickly overhauled by the Hornet down the straight of the East Sale runway.

The speed match was just one of several runs over two days of filming for a new RAAF pilot-recruitment campaign.

But the March encounter wasn't all about speed as pilot, driver and technicians from both camps compared notes on the synergies between the two very technical, very powerful speed machines.

After the 'race' the Perth-born 24-year-old Ricciardo said his car felt a little slow now.

"I'll have to speak to the designers and get them to sharpen their act."

CLICK CAR TO SEE VIDEO





COMBAT CAMERA WISHES DANIEL RICCIARDO THE BEST OF LUCK CONTESTING THE 2014 FORMULA 1 WORLD DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP.



After the encounter, Ricciardo said it was a very unusual experience to look in his rear-view mirrors and see a Hornet coming up behind him.

"It was very surreal. I definitely felt the thrust and the pure power – and the roar – as it passed me," he said. "And then, as he turned up and away and had his rear pointing towards the car, I was holding on, hoping the car wouldn't just blow away. It was awesome."

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ARCTIC FREEZE

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY
SERGEANT TATUM VAYAVANANDA, US MARINE CORPS

Exercise Cold Response 2014

Bardufuss, Norway – During Cold Response 14, an emphasis was put on extreme cold-weather training to bring Marines back to the basics of their legendary capability – being able to adapt to any situation and operate in every austere environment while maintaining their proven partnerships in the European theater.

The past decade often meant desert environments such as Iraq or Afghanistan where Marines adapted to arid deserts and mountainous terrain. Cold weather wasn't unfamiliar to Marines deployed to Afghanistan, but still, a great contrast to the arctic conditions during the exercise.

Cold Response 14 brought together 16,000 troops from six countries, including Marines from US Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa and 2nd Marine Division, to include 2nd Supply Battalion and 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion to train in high-intensity cold-weather operations above the Arctic Circle.

First Sergeant Clayton G. Pettus, supporting CDR-14 with 2nd Marine Regiment said Arctic training was an art that the Marines had all-but lost and had to get back to.

The unpredictable climate of the coastal mountainsides of northern Norway created a challenging environment for the Marines during the exercise, with temperatures barely dropping under freezing point, producing more wind-blown rain than snow.

Sergeant Pettus said staying dry as well as fighting the cold were things they didn't tend to worry about on a day-to-day basis.

"These are things we have to practice in a real environment because, if we don't, Marines can get hurt."

Norway's Lieutenant Colonel Terje Bruoygard said there were a lot of obstacles when 16,000



troops come together in an exercise and the weather proved to be the most effective obstacle for training.

"I'm impressed by the international units' ability to cooperate and do their combat-operations training in these extreme weather conditions," he said.

However, weather wasn't the sole focus of the exercise, with emphasis on operating as a multinational force the main focus and many nations were fully integrated during the exercise, with the majority of servicemembers from Norway, Sweden, France, The Netherlands, Canada, Germany and the US.

"We pick up good things from all our partners because we are a small military force and we need to constantly evolve and constantly adapt our combat skills," Lieutenant Colonel Bruoygard said.

"Norway's small size brings similarities to the Marine Corps, as the need to integrate combined-arms tactics creates understanding in operational procedures.

"The US Marine Corps, in my view, has the foremost combat fighting force with incredible records."

He said Norway looked at key partners' skills as role models, especially the way they think of combined arms, integrated planning and the warrior spirit.



During the exercise, international cooperation was integral to tactical-level training, with many nations making up different elements of Cold Response, to include: a Swedish-led Multinational Brigade comprised of more than five countries; simulated opposition forces augmented by British and French units; amphibious and maritime assets provided by a Dutch vessel; and Norwegian, Canadian and Swedish tank platoons.

Moving as a single unit along the coastal village roads through the fjords of northern Norway, the less-than-battalion size 2/2 Marines were fully integrated with Norwegian soldiers driving the Bandvagn 206, a belted-wheeled all-terrain carrier commonly used by partner nations.

Gunnery Sergeant Jack Roe, a mountain leader from 2/2 Marines said, "If you're

going into an extreme environment, such as the arctic, you're going to need partner support and it's important for us to work well with others."

"The Norwegians and the Dutch have an experience level we don't have and it's important for us to work with them because when we actually go to this environment, we are going to need their help," he said.

"We've gone 10 years in Afghanistan and Iraq, where it's hot, and we have to get back to learning the basics and get back to stuff we used to do."

Language differences, variations in weapons and equipment, and myriad camouflage patterns marked the purpose of the exercise succinctly enough – many different nations, with the same warrior spirit, and a commitment to the stability of the global-security environment.



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Ruminations, by Sir Jeffrey Armiger

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The RAAF introduced a new uniform recently. Without getting too pointed on the subject, let me just highlight the following.

RAAF says – “...cost neutral over the long term”.

I say, every member of the RAAF who already has DPCU issued, will now get General Purpose Uniform (GPU) issued as well – or have their secondhand uniforms confiscated (and probably destroyed) in a one-for-one swap. Plus, since it is not “intended for camouflage”, all RAAF members will still have to keep at least one set of DPCU (or whatever new uniform the Army adopts) for those occasions when camouflage is required. One also has to assume that the copyright owner of this famous ‘camouflage pattern’ will need to be paid a royalty or licence fee.

RAAF says – “...is not intended for camouflage”.

I say, then why choose one of the most popular/effective/battle-proven camouflage patterns on the planet?

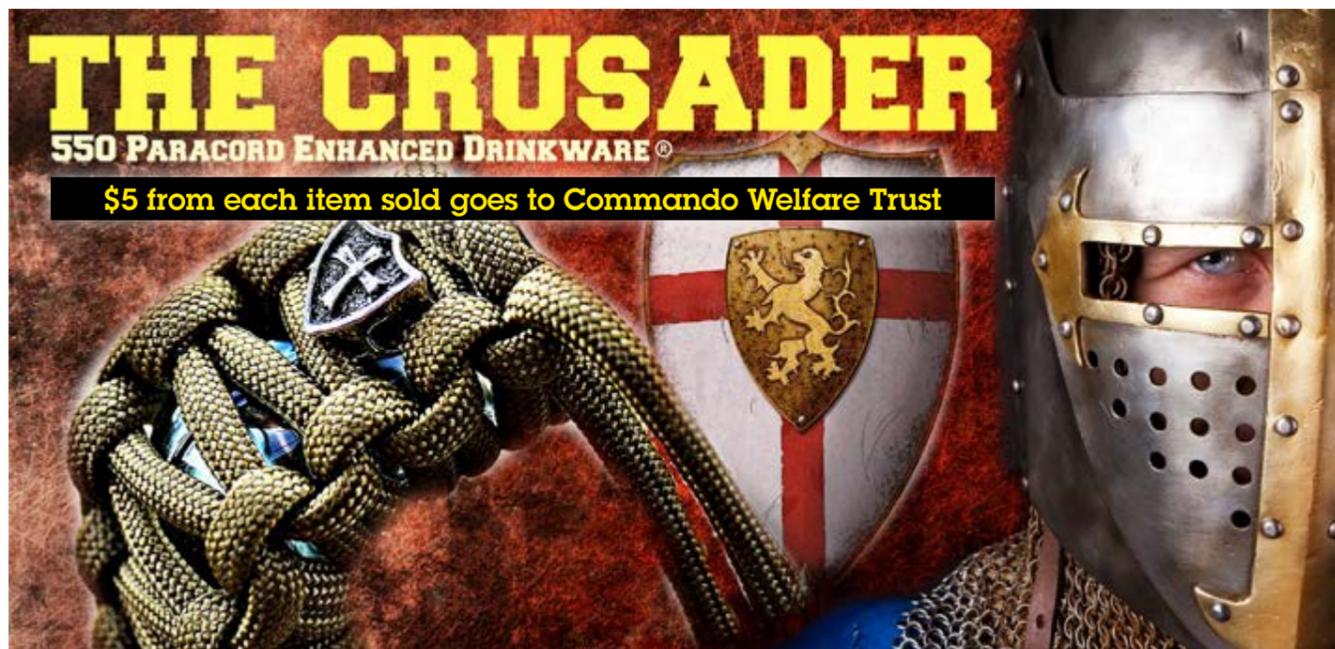
RAAF says – “...while maintaining Air Force's identity as part of the Australian Defence Force”.

I have to ask, how? Ignoring the unique-to-RAAF colour pallet, this pattern is not (yet) used by any other service, except when operating ‘outside the wire’ in Afghanistan. But even if the Army does change to MultiCam, won't we all then look like Americans?



One is actually amused by the Facebook wags who compared the new uniform with this...

www.facebook.com/sirjeffreearmiger



Thanks to K9 Hard Case, COMBAT Camera has 3 limited-edition 550 P.E.D. mugs to give away.

The three best ideas to attract new subscribers to **COMBAT Camera** will win one of these certified limited-edition collectors' mugs. Send entries to editor@militarycontact.com before 25 May.

Winners announced in the next issue of **CONTACT Air Land & Sea**



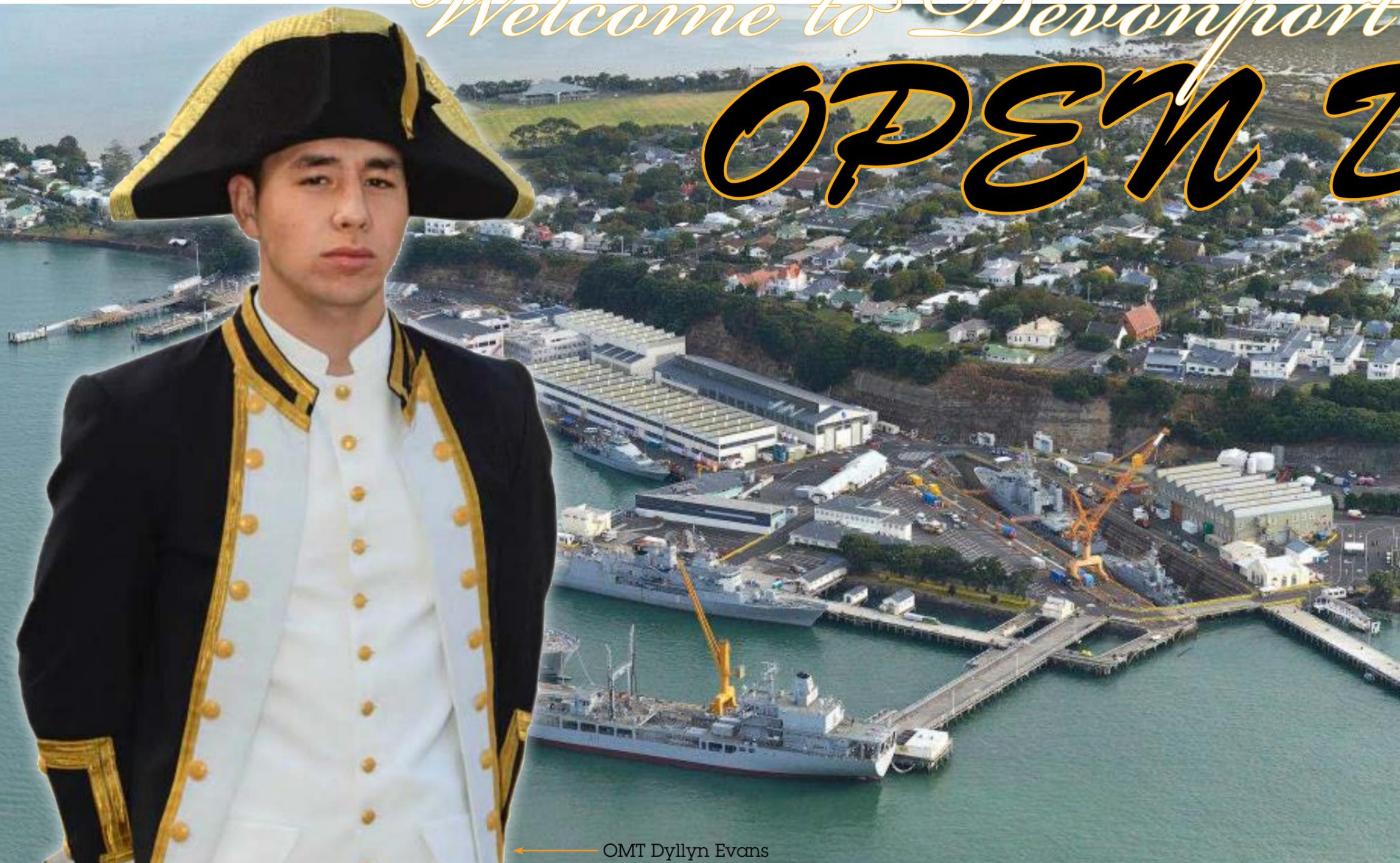
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Welcome to Devonport **OPEN DAY**



← OMT Dyllyn Evans

More than 10,000 people visited Devonport Naval Base in glorious sunshine on 29 March for the Royal New Zealand Navy's Open Day.

Devonport Naval Base's open day began in style with the Navy band welcoming big crowds from 10am. Ferries from the city were packed with people keen to have a great day out.

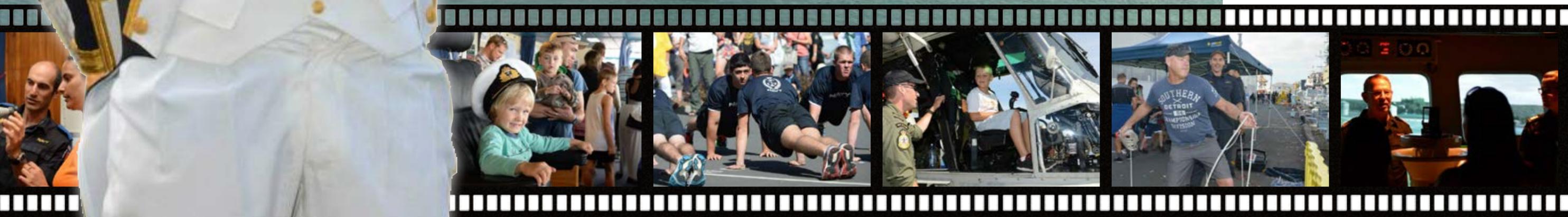
The Kapa Haka Group, the Navy Band, fast-boat displays, ship tours and talkative sailors kept everyone busy and entertained all day.

Visitor Tui Barton agreed it was an awesome family day out.

"Thanks so much to my family for having faith that it was gonna be a great day and to Mike for the tour and especially to the Royal New Zealand Navy," she posted on the Navy's Facebook page.

"Excellent, well planned, very helpful and friendly people.

"Awesome day out for the family.
"Thanks for opening your doors to us."



PHOTOS COURTESY ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY

*Absolutely brilliant.
Have numerous
blisters to prove it.*

Tracy Lawson via Facebook



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Military working dogs are trained to do many things. They can locate drugs and explosive components. They can be part of search-and-rescue teams and react to save a handler's life.

Aggressive behaviour is encouraged in military working dogs – but it is a very controlled aggression. Some dogs have the aggression built into them when they are born while some need a little more training to develop the confidence to pursue a suspect or go for a takedown.

"It's all about building confidence," Staff Sergeant Charles Hardesty, kennel master, Combat Center Provost Marshal's Office, Twentynine Palms, California, says.

"If the handler is timid, the dog is going to sense that and act the same way. We have to build confidence and then reinforce it with positive feedback."

Aggression in a military working dog is like wearing a ballistic vest for police officers. The likelihood of being shot on duty is relatively low, but it's always good to have that tool and to not need it, than the alternative.

Training a dog's aggression is a gradual process. A handler will work on specific drills and repeat them until the dog can maintain that good habit. Handlers and trainers use bite sleeves and other tools to get the dog in an aggressive mindset.

Controlled aggression is a crucial characteristic for K9 handlers to instill in their MWDs. It allows them to be effective in their jobs and safe when those skills are called into action.

Aggression is a true test of the working dog's obedience. Commands for aggressing and stopping need to be obeyed without hesitation.

The handler and the working dog need to have a strong relationship so that aggression can be employed when required.

ALL BARK AND ALL BITE



Corporal Paul Kelley, Combat Center's Provost Marshal's Office, holds on to MWD Collie before setting him on a potential suspect during aggression training.

WORDS, PHOTOS AND VIDEO BY BRIAN HARTIGAN



SEE HOW COMBAT CAMERA EDITOR BRIAN HARTIGAN WENT ON HIS FIRST EVER 'FLIGHT' IN THIS VIDEO...



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ANZAC DAY 2014

We will remember them...

The Anzac spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of all Australians as we acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who have contributed so much in shaping the identity of our proud nation.

Anzac Day is also a time to acknowledge the vital role of all those who have served on the home front, providing support and boosting the morale of their deployed loved ones.

It is also very important we do not forget that more than 3000 Australian Defence Force members are currently deployed on operations, continuing the Anzac spirit while serving Australia's national interests.

Our service men and women are doing an exceptional job at home and in many countries around the world, including:

- contributing to the international campaign against terrorism, maritime security in the Middle East Area of Operations and countering piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the west coast of Africa;
- contributing to UN missions in Africa and the Middle East;
- enhancing security and stability in our region, including on border protection duties in Australia's maritime domain; and,
- assisting in the search for flight MH370 off the coast of Western Australia.

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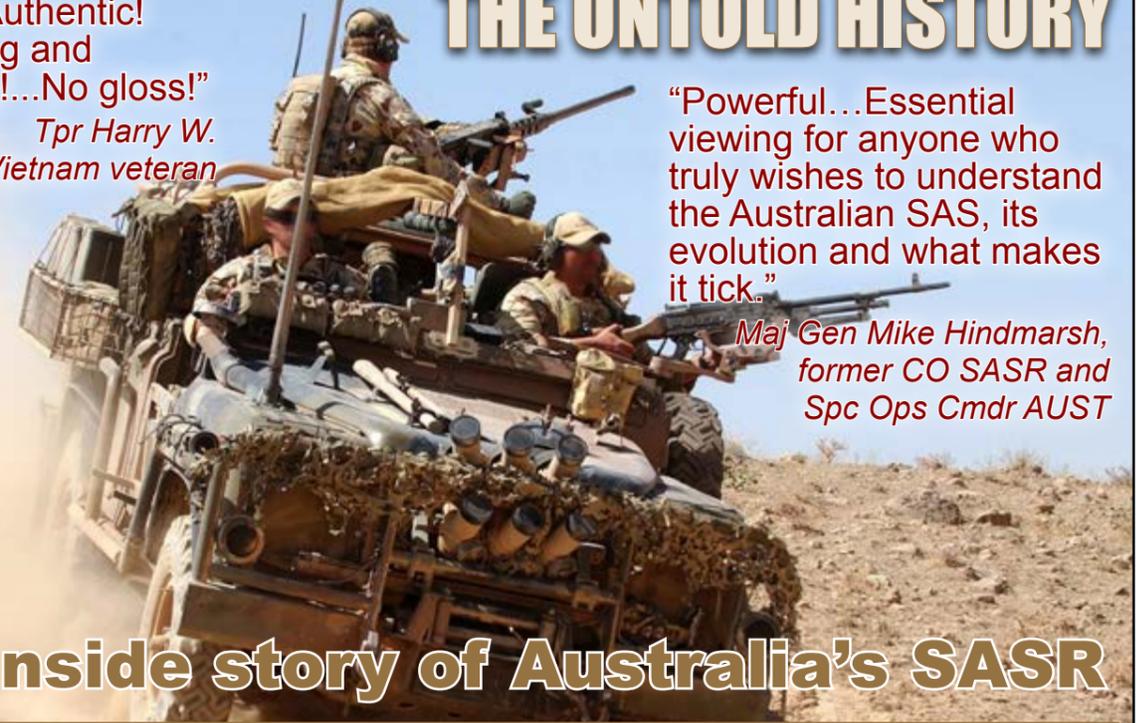


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*Maj Gen Mike Hindmarsh,
former CO SASR and
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Royal Gurkha Regiment in New Zealand PACIFIC KUKRI

Photos thanks to New Zealand Army

More than 140 soldiers from 1 Royal Gurkha Regiment (1RGR) arrived in the South Island of New Zealand for exercise Pacific Kukri 2014 in April.

UK defence adviser Lieutenant Colonel Tim Woodman said the exercise was a good example of the close defence relations the Gurkhas enjoyed with New Zealand.

"The terrain and weather the soldiers will be exercising in are vastly different to their home base in Brunei," he said.

Pacific Kukri is a biennial exercise hosted by the New Zealand Army that focuses on live firing and infantry minor tactics.

It was conducted in the Tekapo Military Training Area throughout April and early May.

The main body of personnel from 1RGR arrived through Christchurch airport in early April and quickly moved on to begin their training in Tekapo.



Oldest fighters – newest [scare] tactics

The UK Ministry of Defence recently released photos and video from a mission in Afghanistan in which two Royal Air Force GR4 Tornados from II(AC) Squadron foiled a potentially fatal IED attack – without firing a shot.

The jets' aircrew spotted insurgents placing an improvised explosive device just hundreds of metres ahead of a convoy of US and Afghan troops, which II(AC) Squadron

had been called to support following an earlier blast.

Pilot Flight Lieutenant Geoff Williams said, "Identifying insurgent activity from 10,000 feet can be challenging, but in this case they were clearly suspicious".

"Two people on a motorbike

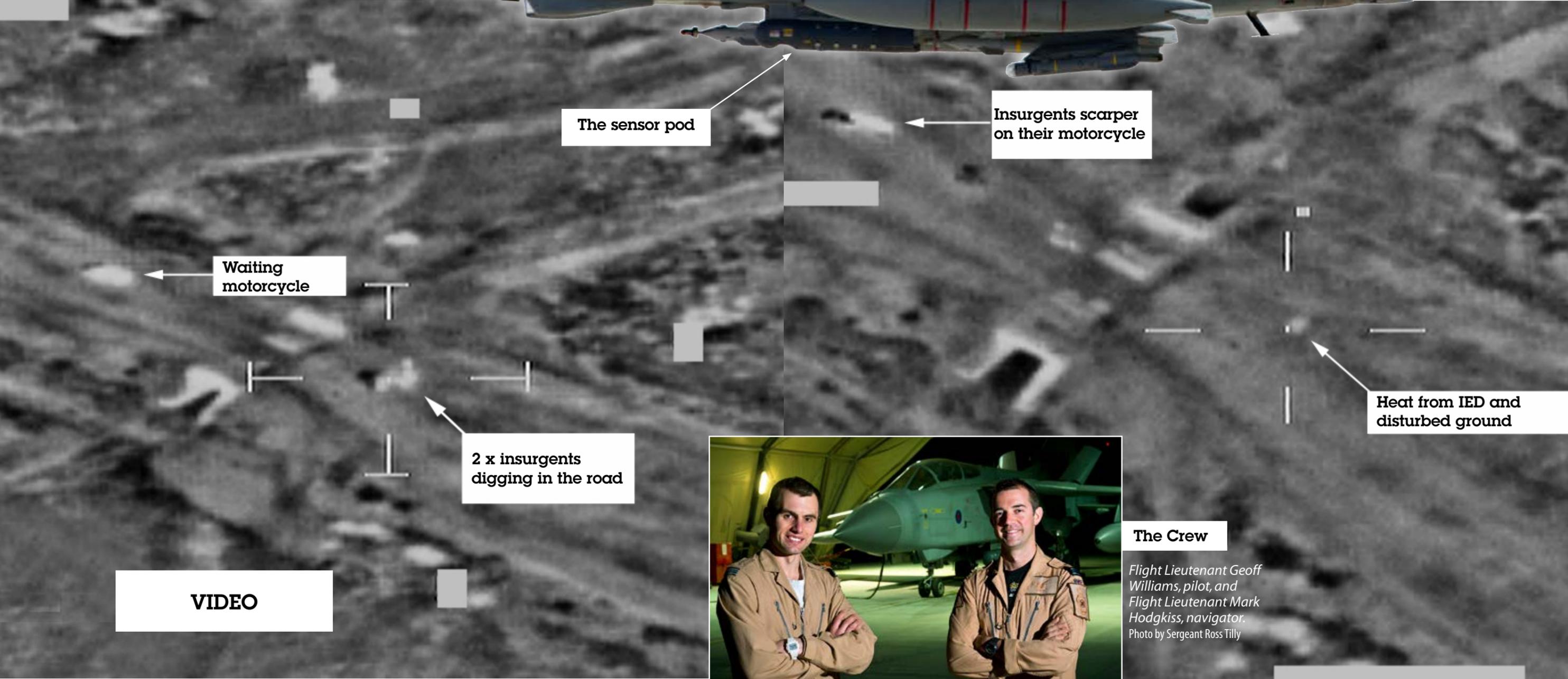
rendezvoused with two others waiting by a small bridge. They collected items stored under the bridge and began digging in the road," he said.

Flight Lieutenant Williams flew an intimidating 'show of

presence' over the bombers – flying low and fast and firing flares to startle and deter them.

The troops on the ground used data from the aircraft to locate and destroy what was later confirmed as a large explosive device.

Formed in 1912, II(AC) Squadron is the oldest fixed-wing flying squadron in the world.



The sensor pod

Insurgents scarper on their motorcycle

Waiting motorcycle

2 x insurgents digging in the road

Heat from IED and disturbed ground

VIDEO



The Crew

Flight Lieutenant Geoff Williams, pilot, and Flight Lieutenant Mark Hodgkiss, navigator.
Photo by Sergeant Ross Tilly

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Warriors invade Scotland



The British Army's rapid reaction force demonstrated the unique reach and agility that its specialist air-manoeuve capabilities provide to the military on 7 April at the beginning of Exercise Joint Warrior, the biggest military exercises in Europe.

Exercise Joint Warrior involved 13,000 personnel from eight countries, more than 30 warships and 25 different types of aircraft and helicopters.

Taking place twice a year, the training aims to test how the Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force work together and with allied forces.

In this phase, troops from 16 Air Assault Brigade's 3 PARA Battlegroup and the US 82nd Airborne Division landed in Chinook, Merlin and Puma 2 support helicopters, protected by Apache attack helicopters, to assault and secure an airfield at Kinloss Barracks in Scotland.

Once secured, more troops and heavier equipment were delivered throughout the day by C-130 Hercules.

This operation was planned and launched from 250 miles away, securing the airfield as a base for further missions, which could include helicopter-borne infantry strikes and stabilisation operations.

Brigadier Nick Borton, Commander 16 Air Assault Brigade said it was realistic and well-resourced training that reflected the types of operations his brigade could be called on to conduct, both in terms of the tactical challenges and their expeditionary nature.

"The mission we have achieved in a short time, and what we will go on to do across the exercise, is a powerful demonstration of the unique flexibility, reach and agility of airborne and air-assault troops."



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GARRISON SERGEAT MAJOR, WO1 'BILLY' MOTT, WELSH GUARDS – MORE DETAILS NEXT PAGE...

...OF THE PUBLIC DUTIES INCREMENTAL COMPANIES...



Tourists in London peeking through the fence at Wellington Barracks on 27 March had an unexpected treat as the three Public Duties Incremental Companies of the Foot Guards and their bands paraded for inspection in all their summer ceremonial magnificence to prove themselves fit for another busy summer of pomp and pageantry.

The Foot Guards and their bands annually undergo the rigorous inspection parade by the commander of the Household Division, currently Major General Ed Smyth-Osbourne.

The Public Duties Incremental Companies are Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards, No 7 Company Coldstream Guards and F Company Scots Guards.

They carry out daily ceremonial duties during the Summer Ceremonial Season at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and The Tower of London.

The Major General's Inspection is the annual validation of the ability of the companies and bands to conduct state ceremonial duties for the year.

While every soldier and officer on parade is an operational fighting

soldier first and foremost, and many will have recently returned from active service overseas, ceremonial and public duties are held in high regard and give the men the discipline necessary to excel when they return to operational duty.

The Foot Guards are one of the icons of Britain, so the highest standards are expected and every detail of their dress and bearing was scrutinised during the inspection.

But all was found to be in good order and Major General Smyth-Osbourne passed them fit for another busy year of ceremonial duties in England's capital.



MAJOR GENERAL ED SMYTH-OSBOURNE

...THE FOOT GUARDS



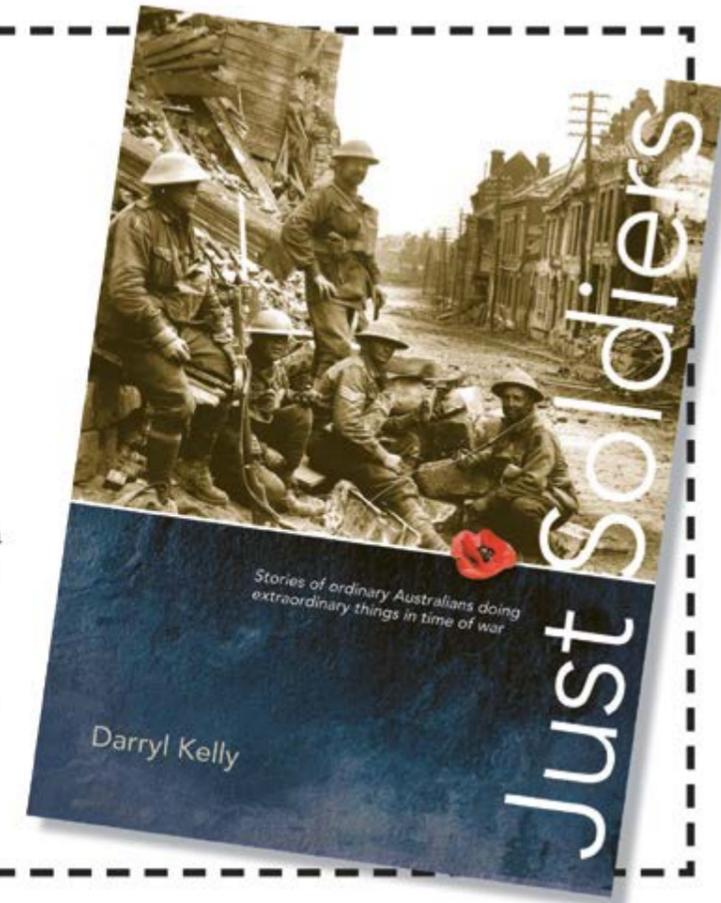
Budget cuts made to the British Army in 1992 included three battalions of infantry. But, rather than disband them, the second battalions of each of the first three regiments of foot guards – 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards and 2nd Battalion Scots Guards – were placed in 'suspended animation' with one company from each remaining active to maintain their traditions and keep custody of their Colours. These three companies are now based permanently at Wellington Barracks in London on public duties and represent their suspended battalions at significant events.

JUST SOLDIERS: STORIES OF ORDINARY AUSTRALIANS DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS IN TIME OF WAR

by Darryl Kelly

In 1914, Australia had a population of fewer than 5 million, yet 300,000 from all walks of life volunteered to fight. More than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. This book of WW1 stories, based on fact, portray the human tragedy of war. Many confirm the reputation of Australians as fearless fighting men. Yet, as in life, not all were heroes.

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AUSSIE CAV CHARGE



Despite different uniforms and different national flags on their shoulders, nine Aussie diggers shared a common item of uniform with their American counterparts in the USA in March – the iconic black Stetson hat of the 1st Cavalry Division.

The 'First Team' welcomed the nine soldiers from the Australian Army to Texas with a staff ride on 7 March.

The ride served as a way to build camaraderie among the soldiers while embracing cavalry heritage.

In training for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, 1st Cavalry Division will embed the Aussies in principal and deputy staff positions during the deployment.

Chief of Staff Colonel Jeffrey Milhorn said the purpose of the

ride – and the force-prep exercises that followed – was to build teamwork and esprit de corps with the Australians ahead of the mission in Afghanistan this [northern] summer.

Australian Colonel Roger Symons said it was great to see the heritage of 1st Cavalry Division being fostered and maintained and looked forward to being part of the 'First Team'.



Colonel Andy Haebich presents 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment commander Lieutenant Jason Vaughn with an Aussie flag.



**WORDS SERGEANT ANGEL TURNER
PHOTOS SERGEANTS ANGEL TURNER AND KEN SCAR**



ABOVE: Brigadier General Michael Bills, 1st Cavalry Division commanding general, addresses Australian soldiers. BELOW: Brigadier General Bills and his deputy Brigadier General Douglas Gabram prepare to lead a ride with Australian soldiers embedded for the 1st Cavalry Division's upcoming Afghan deployment.



The latest Navy Cadet novel

by

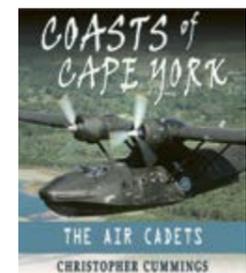
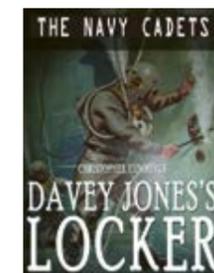
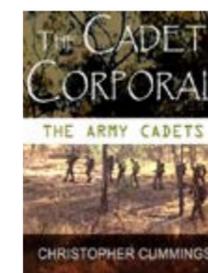
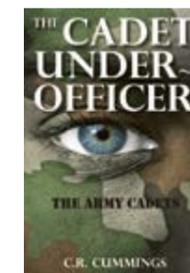
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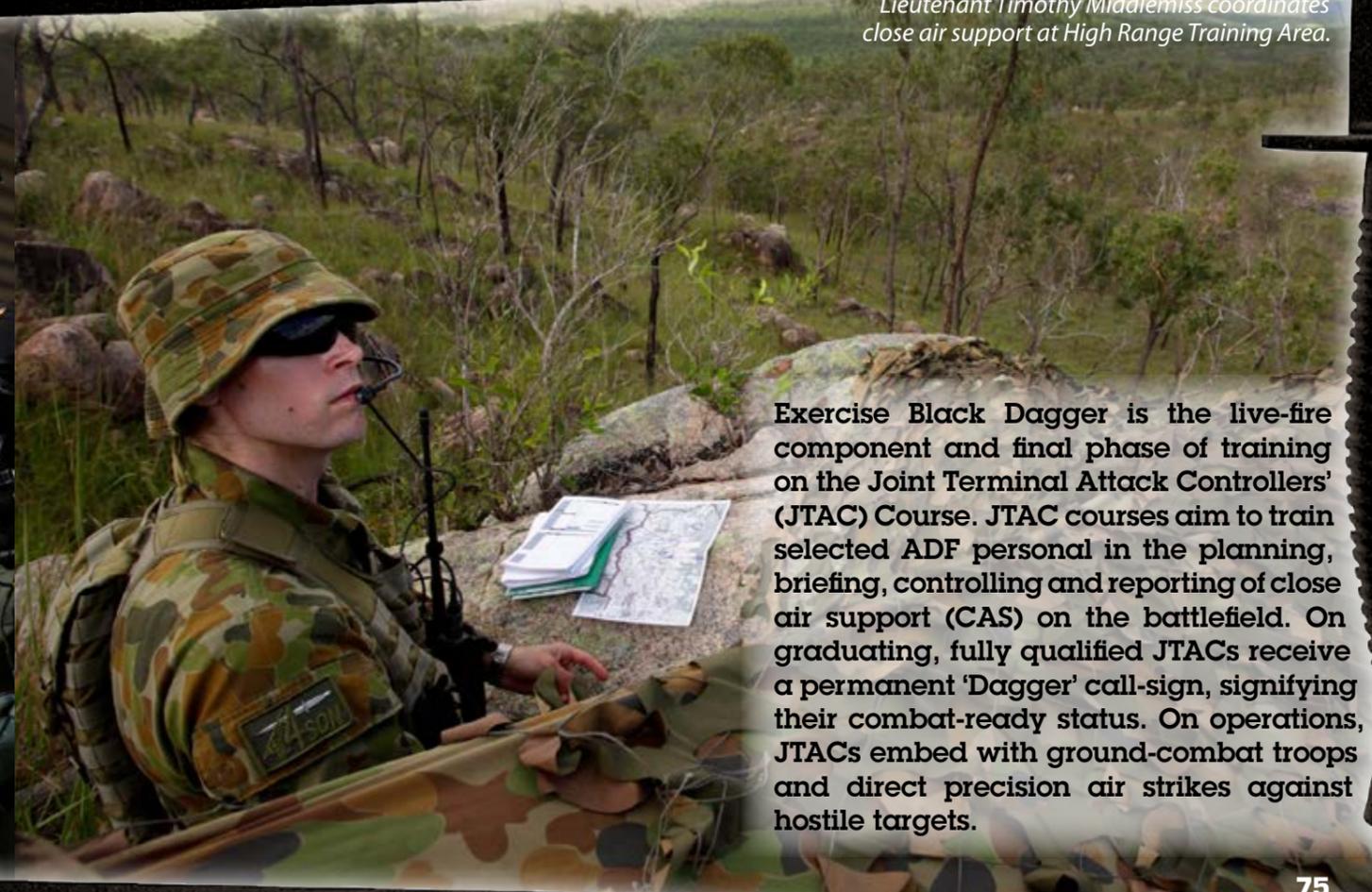
Bombardier Mitchell Watson conducts training on 'ROVER' with Flight Lieutenant Gerard Bonaventura at Line Creek Junction.



Flying Officer Brett Gordon and Flight Lieutenant Matthew Smith prepare for a sortie.

EXERCISE BLACK DAGGER 2014

Flying Officer Brett Gordon prepares for a flight during Exercise Black Dagger 01/14.



Joint Terminal Attack Controller Flight Lieutenant Timothy Middlemiss coordinates close air support at High Range Training Area.

Exercise Black Dagger is the live-fire component and final phase of training on the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers' (JTAC) Course. JTAC courses aim to train selected ADF personal in the planning, briefing, controlling and reporting of close air support (CAS) on the battlefield. On graduating, fully qualified JTACs receive a permanent 'Dagger' call-sign, signifying their combat-ready status. On operations, JTACs embed with ground-combat troops and direct precision air strikes against hostile targets.



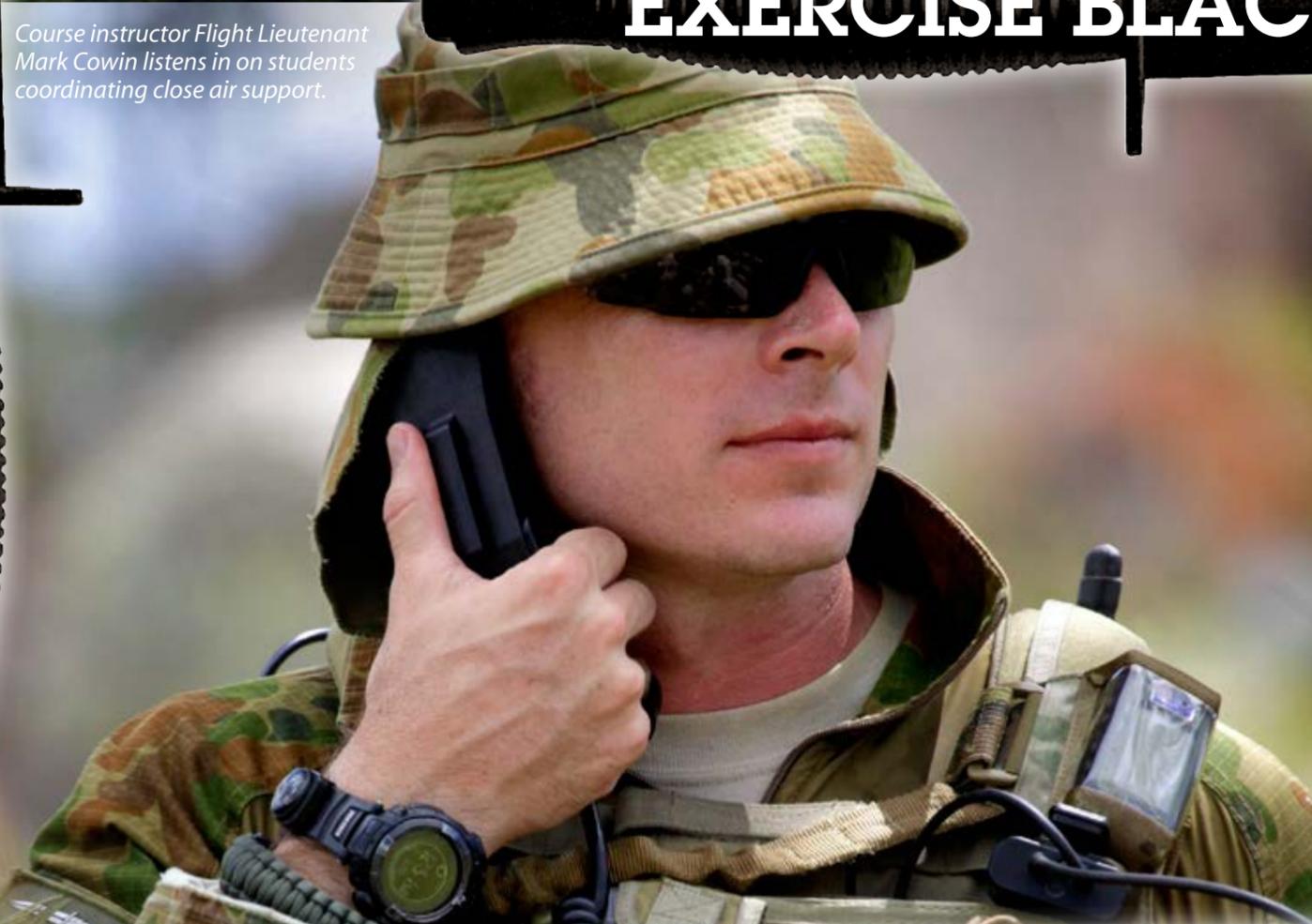
An F/A-18F Super Hornet takes off from RAAF Base Townsville.



No. 52 Joint Terminal Attack Controller course students at High Range Training Area.

EXERCISE BLACK DAGGER 2014

Course instructor Flight Lieutenant Mark Cowin listens in on students coordinating close air support.



An F/A-18F Super Hornet provides close air support.



Eight F/A-18F Super Hornets from No. 1 Squadron, RAAF Base Amberley, deployed to Townsville to support Black Dagger. For the Super Hornet crews, the exercise provides two weeks of training in air-to-ground weapons delivery under simulated combat conditions. MRH-90 and Tiger helicopters also supported.



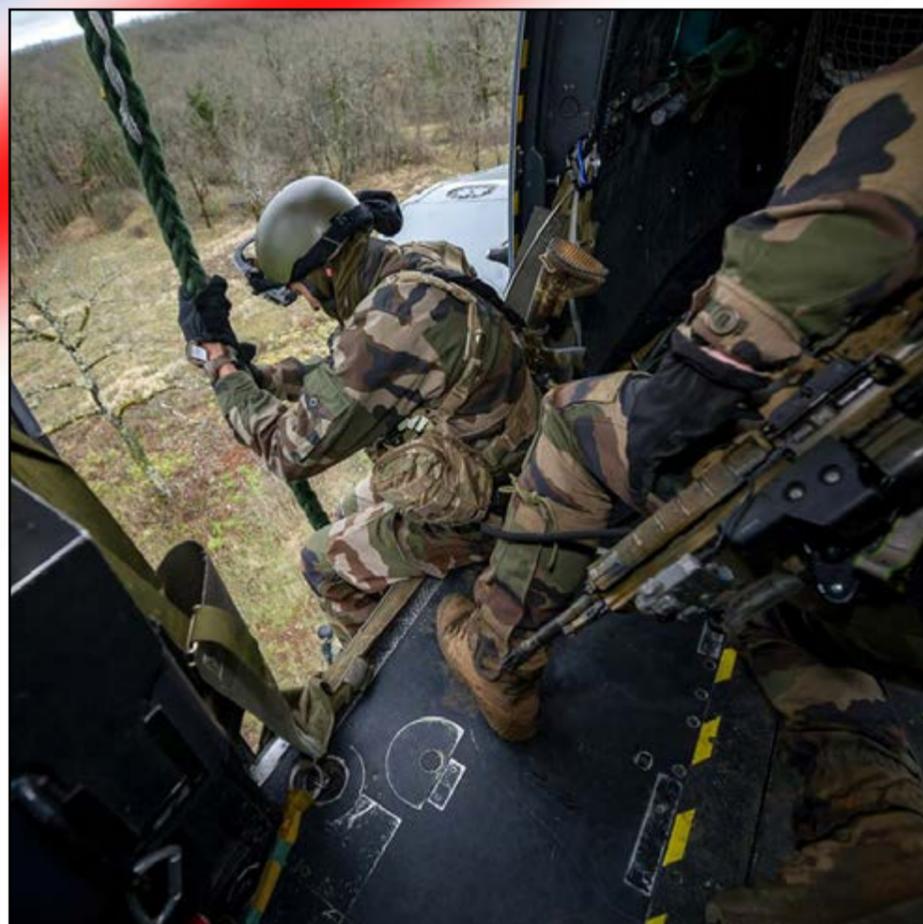
FRENCH ARMÉE DE TERRE SPECIAL FORCES RENDEZ-VOUS

Photos by J. Bardenet © Armée de Terre

From 24 March to 11 April, the Special Forces Brigade of the French Armée de Terre (ground army) came together at camp Caylus in southern France to hone technical skills and tactical fighting techniques.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- An airborne sniper requires extreme concentration in a Gazelle to overcome instability and movement in the aircraft.
- A special-forces stick prepare for helicopter extraction.
- A stick from the special operations 1st Marine Infantry Parachute Regiment (1st RPIMa) conduct a building clearance.
- A member of the 13th Parachute Dragoons Regiment – or 13th RDP – an airborne special forces regiment of the French Army secures a perimeter.
- Members of the 13th Parachute Dragoons Regiment fastrope from a Eurocopter Caracal (Super Cougar) helicopter.



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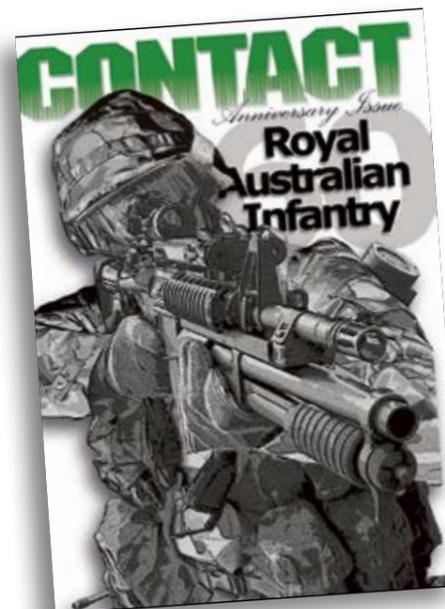
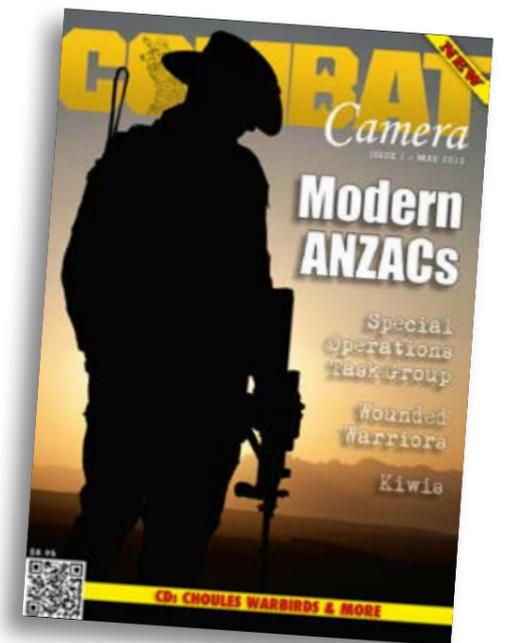
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COMBAT CAMERA IS ALL ABOUT PHOTOS - SO WHERE BETTER TO GET TIPS ON TAKING PHOTOS THAT GET PUBLISHED?

I always maintain that 'flash photography' is a subject almost as big as photography itself.

Using flash when taking a photo can be as simple as letting the camera do all the work – or it can be as complex as an army of off-camera remote-controlled flash units.

While the average photographer – or even most advanced/professional photographers – will never use an army of off-camera flashes, flash photography is still tricky, even at its most basic.

When to use flash

When light levels get too low for normal shutter speed/aperture combinations, it makes sense to simply introduce more light artificially.

But, you can actually use flash anytime, day or night, inside or outside, in darkness or even in very bright sunshine.

My sample photo this issue was taken in bright afternoon sunshine.

So why did I use flash in this case? Well, the simplest reason in this case was to light up the shadows caused by the sun, which would have

been most of the drummer, including his face, because the sun was actually to his right, almost directly in front of the camera. That would have left almost all of this man in shadow from my perspective.

But the flash lit him up so that the shaded parts of him are now roughly as bright as the sun-lit parts.

This didn't happen naturally or automatically, however.

We have discussed metering in the past and how you have to hold the shutter release button down half way to focus on a subject before reframing the shot. Well pressing the shutter release button down half way also activates the light meter. Except when you reframe the photo, the light meter continues to do its job, unless you tell it to stop.

So, in this case, I also had to lock the meter in the shadows. To do that, there's a special button (on most digital SLRs at least), which in my case (on a Canon these days) is marked with a six-pointed star, and is called 'auto-exposure lock'.

So, in taking this photo, I had to focus on the subject's face and hold

the shutter release button down half way (trigger finger), then aim the centre of the lens into the shadows on the man's body and press and hold the 'auto-exposure lock' button (thumb), and then recompose the shot to include the audience in the background, using the rule of thirds on the subject.

Other things I considered in taking this photo were, using a relatively slow shutter speed to deliberately introduce blurred motion in his hands, suggesting action, but not so slow that his face or body are blurred.

I also knew that, on 'shutter priority' and in these light conditions, the aperture would be very high (closed right down), so the subject would be in good focus – but so too would the audience in the background.

Yes, it is complicated and does mean a lot of thinking on the job – but the result makes the effort worth it, I think.

Of course, the more practice you get, the more experimenting you do and the more mistakes you learn from, the easier it becomes.

When not to use flash

There are plenty of times you should not use flash, even when light levels might suggest otherwise.

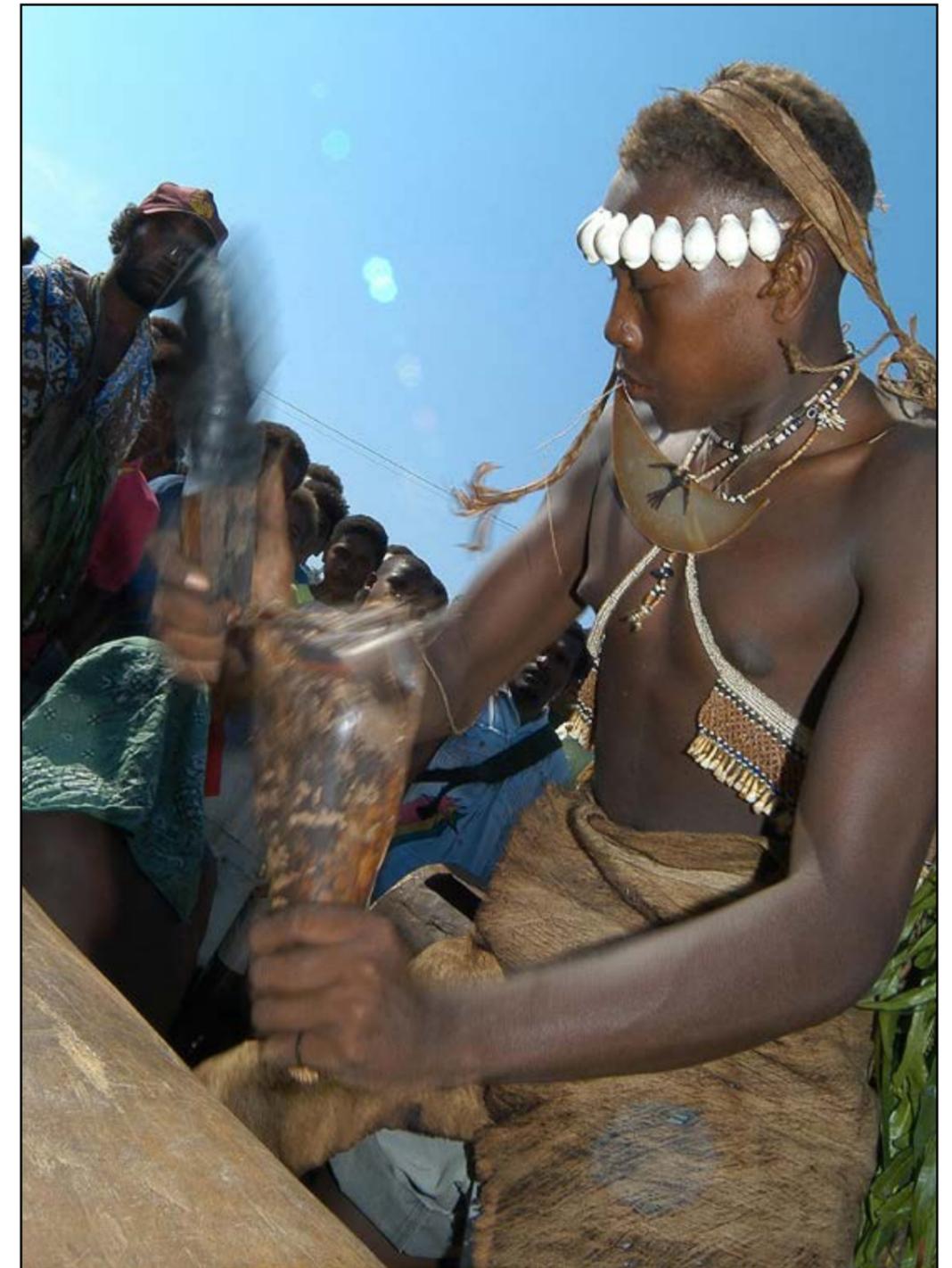
Generally speaking if a subject is more than about 5m away you could be wasting your time, unless you have a powerful flash or you do other things to help the flash reach out.

No flash has a hope of lighting up an entire sports stadium, for example – yet you will see thousands of flashes going off in the stands.

Fireworks displays are another classic. Fireworks are actually made of light, so flashing at them is both counter productive and a waste of time because of the distance.

In these situations, use your knowledge of photography – slower shutter speed, wider aperture, higher ISO etc – and turn the flash OFF.

There's so much more to flash photography that it will be the subject of many more articles – unless you write to me with specific questions on other aspects of photography and/or getting your photos published.



If you have any particular questions about getting stories or photos published in **COMBAT Camera** or **CONTACT Air Land & Sea**, I'd be happy to try and answer them, either here or privately. Write to me at editor@militarycontact.com or PO Box 3091, Minnamurra, NSW 2533.

Photo by Brian Hartigan – Nikon D100, 27mm focal length, flash on TTL (through the lens) metering, shutter speed 1/60th of a second, shutter priority, aperture f22, ISO 100.

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